

What is claimed is:

1 A method for use in a system having a network, comprising:
2 receiving a control message for a call session over the network;
3 receiving one or more predetermined criteria entered by a user;
4 comparing information in the control message against the one or more
5 predetermined criteria; and
6 launching a software routine based on the comparison of information
7 in the control message with the one or more predetermined criteria.

1 2. The method of claim 1, wherein launching the software routine
2 includes launching a software routine that is separate from routines associated with
3 call control, call status, and media-related tasks.

1 3. The method of claim 1, wherein launching the software routine
2 includes launching a software routine to perform a service in addition to call control
3 and status and media-related tasks.

1 4. The method of claim 1, further comprising sending one or more
2 messages in response to the control message to establish a call session.

1 5. The method of claim 1, wherein receiving the control message includes
2 receiving a message according to a predetermined protocol for establishing a real-time
3 audio-based interactive communications session.

1 6. The method of claim 1, wherein receiving the control message includes
2 receiving a message for establishing a real-time text-based communications session.

1 7. The method of claim 1, wherein receiving the control message includes
2 receiving a message according to a Session Initiation Protocol.

1 8. The method of claim 1, further comprising receiving the one or more
2 predetermined criteria from a user interface.

1 9. The method of claim 8, further comprising receiving a name of the
2 software routine to be launched from the user interface.

1 10. The method of claim 9, further comprising receiving user-defined data
2 from the user interface, the user-defined data for passing to the launched software
3 routine.

1 11. The method of claim 1, wherein receiving the control message is
2 performed by a protocol-aware module and comparing the information is performed
3 by a separate module.

1 12. The method of claim 1, wherein comparing the information in the
2 control message includes comparing an identifier of a caller.

1 13. The method of claim 1, wherein comparing the information in the
2 control message includes comparing an identifier of a callee.

1 14. The method of claim 1, wherein comparing the information in the
2 control message includes comparing information selected from the group consisting
3 of time, date, message subject, message priority, message direction, caller identifier,
4 and callee identifier.

1 15. The method of claim 1, further comprising launching different ones of
2 plural routines based on the comparison of the control message information with the
3 one or more predetermined criteria.

1 16. The method of claim 1, wherein receiving the control message includes
2 receiving a Session Initiation Protocol Invite request.

1 17. A system comprising:
2 a processor;
3 an interface to receive a call request over a network;
4 a protocol-aware module executable on the processor to process the
5 call request; and
6 a rules processing module executable on the processor to compare
7 information in the call request with a set of one or more user-defined rules.

1 18. The system of claim 17, further comprising a routine, wherein the rules
2 processing module is executable on the processor to launch the routine based on the
3 comparison.

1 19. The system of claim 18, wherein the routine performs a task that is in
2 addition to call control, call status, and media-related services.

1 20. The system of claim 18, wherein the routine includes a web browser.

1 21. The system of claim 18, further comprising a user interface to receive a
2 name of the routine.

1 22. The system of claim 21, wherein the user interface is further capable of
2 receiving user-defined data to pass with the launching of the routine.

1 23. The system of claim 17, further comprising a user interface to receive
2 the one or more user-defined rules.

1 24. The system of claim 17, wherein the call request includes a Session
2 Initiation Protocol Invite request.

1 25. An article including one or more storage media containing instructions
2 for controlling a device in a communications system having a network, the
3 instructions when executed causing the device to:

4 receive a message according to a predetermined protocol;
5 compare information in the message with one or more predetermined
6 user-defined rules; and;
7 launch a software routine unaware of the predetermined protocol.

1 26. The article of claim 25, wherein the predetermined protocol provides
2 for real-time interactive communications sessions.

1 27. The article of claim 25, wherein the predetermined protocol provides
2 for text-based chat sessions.

1 28. The article of claim 25, wherein the predetermined protocol includes a
2 Session Initiation Protocol.

1 29. A data signal embodied in a carrier wave and comprising instructions
2 for controlling a device in a communications system, the instructions when executed
3 causing the device to:

4 receive a call request according to a first protocol;
5 perform a rules check of information in the call request; and
6 launch one of plural tasks based on the rules check.

1 30. A system comprising:
2 a plurality of software routines;
3 a storage device containing user-entered rules including a first set of
4 rules and a second set of rules; and
5 a controller adapted to launch a first software routine if the first set of
6 rules is satisfied and to launch a second software routine if the second set of rules is
7 satisfied.